



GREEN LIBRARY: AN OVERVIEW

Dr. Saranjit Kaur*

Ph.D (Computer Science), Professional Assistant (Library) Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, Pitampura, University of Delhi, Delhi – 110034.

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*Corresponding Author

Dr. Saranjit Kaur

Ph.D (Computer Science),
Professional Assistant
(Library) Sri Guru Gobind
Singh College of
Commerce, Pitampura,
University of Delhi, Delhi –
110034.

ABSTRACT

Green library means following a green library movement under which librarian, staff, libraries, cities, towns, college, universities are devoting to greening libraries and minimizing environment impact. Green library is also known as sustainable library is designed to keep in mind to reduce the negative impact on the natural environment and taking advantage of increasing indoor environmental quality. The study of this paper is done through collecting information from websites and some renowned journals. This paper highlights

challenges for green library.

KEYWORDS: Green Library, Environment, Sustainable Library.

INTRODUCTION

With the wide spread use of digitization, modern technology is fulfilling user demands but we are ignoring the environment. Now it is high time that there is need for Green Library or making the environment sustainable. Now in all the nations there is increasing need to save the environment if we want to give cleaner air, water to the next generations. So in the past few years there is increasing emphases in green revolutions. In the same way there is need to make home and office environment green where all of us spent the whole day.

Green Library

According to an online Dictionary for Library and information Science (ODLIS), Green Libraries are “designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and

maximize the indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection, use of natural construction materials and biodegradable products, conservation of resources such as water, energy, paper and are responsible for waste disposal or proper recycling, etc. (<https://en.wikipedia.org>).

The concept of green library movement initiated in 1990 and after that it's increasing popularity in the library field with the increasing digitization. Green Library means that the library should use e-resources / natural resources and energy resources efficiently. The library should use exhaustible resources in an environment friendly manner. In other words, while renovating, operating, building, library should use e-resources efficiently and minimum or no harm to the environment. Not only this proper disposal or recycling of waste should be taken care of in advance (Meher, Parabhoi 2017).

Green Libraries mean: green library buildings which were rated by US Green Building Council, according to the rating system, LEED (Library Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) in 2000. After the introduction of LEED it becomes standard to measure commercial and institutional buildings of the US.

LEED has some performance standard, which building owner or planner needs to choose to meet the benchmark. LEED is a point base system to meet the green building criteria. There are six categories for new building construction are: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, an innovation in design. LEED rating is four levels of certification: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. For normal Certification building must score 26 points, for Silver 33 points, for Gold 39 points and for Platinum 52 points. At present in the US there are only two LEED certified library buildings: The William J. Clinton Presidential Library and the lake View Terrace Branch Library.

In India TERI was the first to adopt Green library movement in India. It has created a rating system to rate green building in India.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Kurbanoglu and Boustany stated that we should take into account environmental issues when making choices and we should not consume resources at the rate faster that it can be

renewed themselves and we should not generate waste faster than it can be assimilated by the environment.

Meher and Parabhoi (2017) highlights the condition of the environment, its impacts on society and efforts of the organization towards eco-friendly earth and development of standard for green library roles of librarian and initiative of India and outside India.

Dhar (2018) described in details about the environmental factors that cause the damage in the library for eg. pollution, fungus, light, humidity, ventilation, etc. The paper further highlights the steps to develop a green library.

Shah and Kumar (2015) explained the steps such as site selection, water, energy conservation, building material and indoor air quality, etc. The paper also describes few green libraries initiatives taken by other countries.

Binks et. Al (2014) recommends a range of simple and easy to implement practices and procedures for large scale building development, public library and refurbishing existing library buildings.

Advantages of Building Green Libraries

- Cost construction of green library is affordable and with a limited budget, it is possible to build green buildings.
- Use of vital resources like energy, water judiciously.
- Reduction of carbon footprints in the library due to human activity.
- Reuse and recycle of waste.

Challenges for Adopting Green Libraries

There are many challenges for adopting green libraries in developing countries than in developed countries. In developing countries like India have more problems like population explosion, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, terrorism. So in this type of situation very little importance is given to the issues like environment, hygiene, green library, etc. But still green library movement has affected Indian libraries too and they have also been trying to adopt a green library movement in India.

- Lack of awareness amount institutions and libraries or higher management
- Lack of initiative taken by higher management

- Lack of motivation given to staff by higher authorizes
- Lack of proper plan, procedure or guidelines issued to the staff at all levels
- Sustainable site selection and development for library
- Keeping indoor environmental quality
- Reducing the use of air-conditioner
- Efficient use of energy
- Conservation of natural resources like water, trees, etc. or other material
- Reduction of waste or recycling the waste
- Sunlight, moisture and temperature can damage the books, so the books should be preserved from all these.
- Moreover, the movement of many readers on the floor, books weight, stacks make it complicated too.

Recommendations for Green Library

- All of us should make little effort to make green earth.
- To use only those products which are reusable
- Using exhaustible resources carefully
- To create environmental awareness among people
- To promote the green library movement
- Proper use of technology and energy resources for eg. switch off fan or electricity and computer when out for meeting / lunch or leave their office.
- Using environmentally friendly and recycled material
- Using different bins for separation of waste
- Do not use plastic bags, disposables instead bring private water bottles or private crockery
- Use recycled paper or use letter paper
- Recycle toner, cartridges
- Using stairs instead of elevators
- Proper arrangement to reuse waste water for plants or ground
- Promoting research in this field

Libraries can also do the following

- Wedded out books should be displayed and given at minimum cost or donating to the needy instead of giving to hawkers/ vendor
- Eliminates the use of plastics

- Use network printer instead of personal printers
- Using and Providing different bins for waste paper and other garbage
- Use Natural ventilation and renewable green material like wood, bamboo, cork etc.
- Use of building material, furnishings and fixtures with recycled content
- Library should use building materials, furniture and consumables which are made from natural materials
- Use paper shredder machine so to sell the shredded paper for recycling in fruit / crockery / glass / decoration pieced packing etc.
- Placing the study tables and desks near the sunlight, so to use maximum utilization of artificial lights to reduce the use of electricity.
- Installing solar or geothermal energy systems
- Install and use of low flush and dual-flush
- Use of water harvesting systems
- Use of double-pane windows
- E-waste should be recycled by reputed vendors

The Delhi Government and UGC should take initiative and grant to older buildings to improve and convert them into green libraries.

CONCLUSION

The Green library concept is entirely a new concept in the field of library and information science. It is easy, cost effective but while implementation, the stakeholders face many challenges which has to deal with patience and lots of efforts involved. So we can conclude that due to environmental changes it affects the security of nations and survival of all living species, it impacts the integrity of the earth and the heritage of future generations. So we should change the trend and start repairing the damage. If all of us make little effort to make green earth, then we can also prevent globalization and can give greener and cleaner environment to the next generation. Older buildings can be consulted and replace with new equipments and techniques to conserve depleted resources, reuse and make sustainable library. So our main concern should be reducing the libraries' impact on the environment.

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